Instructional Technology Newsline

Instructional Technology Staff
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http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/
newsletters

◆ Deborah S. Sutton, Director

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◆ Instructional Technology Update

In past months it has been impossible to pick up a piece of education literature without there being at least one reference to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and its mandate for significant accountability measures based on the goal that all children will be proficient in reading and math by 2014. This month Missouri, along with other states, will be posting "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) analyses that indicate the state's progress toward meeting that ambitious long-term goal.

High-quality teaching and professional development are key. The NCLB requires all children to be taught by highly qualified teachers. We know from our personal experiences, literature, and research that teaching and learning go hand-in-hand, that quality teaching is the biggest predictor of student success. It makes sense for the law to also stress the importance of teachers engaging regularly in high-quality professional development. Even in (or perhaps, particularly in) times of a tough economy, educators, decision makers, and policy leaders recognize and support continuous professional development.

For professional development to be meaningful and worthwhile, teachers must develop personal plans that are based on good data and include high-quality activities. Current research indicates those plans must include the effective integration of technology into teaching and learning. -Deb

FY04 Technology Budgets and Grant Programs
<u>STATE FUNDING:</u>

TAG (Not funded for FY04)

Technology Network Program (TNP) –
Two districts have indicated plans to join the MOREnet Technology Network Program in FY04. This brings the total number of K-12 participants to 515:513 districts, the State School for the Deaf, and the State School for the Blind.

Safe Schools –
In September, districts with Safe Schools Program grants received word of a grant increase. The increase was made possible by redirecting some of the funds that had been set aside for first-year grants. The Department decided to not award first-year grants in FY04, in light of the current budget withholdings, the likelihood of future withholdings, and uncertainty about FY05 funding.

Districts operating safe schools programs are encouraged to attend the 15th annual *National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: Reaching Every Student Straight from the Heart* which will be held in the Kansas City, MO Hyatt Regency Crown Center on October 26-29, 2003. This is a conference for preschool, K-12, and higher education personnel, community leaders, juvenile justice and social services personnel, and other practitioners who want to become better equipped to work effectively with you in at-risk situations. More than 150 concurrent sessions, four preconference sessions, and four general sessions are planned, focusing on four key dropout prevention strands: programs and alternatives to traditional education, research and evaluation, instruction, and culture/climate for success. See http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm to download a conference flyer. To register online, see http://odce.clemson.edu/NDPC/index.html.

FEDERAL FUNDING:
Title IID Formula Grants –
Districts apply online for these funds via the consolidated Federal Grants Application at http://k12apps.dese.state.mo.us/webapps/logon.asp. Last year, districts provided supplemental information about their Title IID grants in their TAG applications. Since TAG will not be funded in FY04, districts are to disregard any reference to the TAG application.

Title IID Competitive (eMINTS) Grants –
The application process for FY04 competitive grants is closed. Forty second-year and 32 first-year applications were approved, supporting approximately 100 first-year teachers and 90 second-year teachers in the 2003-2004 eMINTS professional development program. Application materials for FY05 will be made available in January 2004. Details about the FY04 programs can be found at http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/index.htm.

District Technology Plan Approvals
Approximately 70 district education technology plans will have their state approval status expire in 2004. A reminder letter to these districts will be mailed on September 3. New and/or substantially updated plans are to be submitted to Instructional Technology by March 31, 2004. A panel of readers will review the plans in Jefferson City on April 15-16, 2004.

Like last year, the Missouri Educational Technology Professional Association (METPA) will provide assistance to technology planners. Instructional Technology and METPA officers will meet in September to plan fall information workshop and spring technical assistance sessions. Notices will be mailed to districts with expiring plans and posted on the Instructional Technology and METPA websites.

Census of Technology
FORMS: The 2004 technology core data forms were reviewed by the Department's instructional technology, core data, and information technology staffs in July, and reviewed by school district volunteers in August. In keeping with the recent trends, a few items were deleted, a few items were added, and several items were refined to better address NCLB demands and align with the state technology plan and the National Education Technology Plan (NETP) that is under development. Technology sections were updated, more emphasis on teacher professional development, and greater detail on student and teacher access and usage of technology.

MANUAL: The directions for completing the technology core data forms were also reviewed and updated. Definitions and details have been added to address commonly asked questions. Like last year, these directions will be made available on the Instructional Technology website. New in 2004, a link to these instructions will be provided on the core data screens.

E-rate Program
Update on Funding Year 2003 – Wave 10 for E-rate funding for funding year 2003 (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) was issued on Monday August 25, 2003. In this wave, the SLD committed over $88.4 million in 583 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave included funding for priority 1 (telecommunications and Internet access) and for priority 2 (internal connections) at the 85% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed over $877.7 million in 27,000 letters for funding year 2003. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete.

Missouri E-rate Workshops
MOREnet will conduct regional training sessions on the E-rate program in October and November. These sessions are intended for those new to the program or needing a refresher course. Sessions will provide an overview of the program, discuss eligible services, and go over the application process and required forms. They will be conducted in Independence on October 22, Macon on October 23, Springfield on October 27, Poplar Bluff on October 28, Camdenton on October 30, Maryville on November 4, and St. Peters on November 5.

Any district, school, or library in the state can send representatives to these sessions – whether or not it is a part of the K-12 TNP or REAL programs. To register, e-mail training@more.net or call (800) 509-6673 and ask for Sandra Monnig. If emailing, be sure to include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, organization name and location, and the date of training that you wish to attend. See: http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/training2003.html for details on dates, times, and locations.

Guidance for Library E-rate Applicants
In August, the FCC released new guidance for library E-rate applicants. The SLD website includes new rules for compliance with the filtering provision of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which became effective August 14, 2003. Under CIPA, schools and libraries receiving discounts on Internet Access and/or Internal Connections must have an Internet safety policy that includes a technology protection measure to protect against certain visual depictions. Libraries may be undertaking actions to include the technology protection measure in FY 2003, but they must be in compliance with all of the requirements of CIPA by the start of FY 2004.
See: http://www.sl.universalservice.org/whatsnew/2003/082003.asp#081803

E-rate Program Review
In August, education and interest groups concerned about the fate of the E-rate Program responded to the FCC's current rulemaking notice for proposed rule changes that will affect the program's application and review process. The State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance and the American Library Association proposed a number of program changes to improve administrative practices, including a reduction in the maximum Priority 2 discount rate. The states urged the FCC to make the necessary rulemakings changes to ensure that the causes of waste, fraud and abuse are addressed. They recommended new administrative procedures that would simplify the application and review process, new funding priorities that would respond to the needs of all applicants, and approval of educational technology plans by the July 1 start of the funding year or whenever discounted services begin, whichever is later. In addition to reinforcing their earlier and more detailed set of comments, the state representatives pledged their commitment to work with the FCC and its administrative arm, the SLD to improve the impact of the E-rate program on all schools. For a copy of the states' 52-page set of comments. See: http://www.eratecentral.com/FCC/NPRM/SECA_NPRM_Intial_Comments.pdf

Free E-rate Survival Guide and Tool Kit
Assembled by the editors of eSchool News and presented with financial support from E-rate Consulting Services LLC, the *erate Survival Guide and Tool Kit* provides "sure-fire tips to maximizing your E-rate funding". This free resource for educators points out avoidable technical violations, gives common-sense advice on how to manage the paperwork and improve E-rate performance, and provides links to online resources. See:
http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/eRate/index.cfm.

Washington, D.C. News
IDEA Legislation – When the U.S. Congress returns to work this month, the authorization committees will tackle the challenge of reauthorizing the 27 year-old legislation for helping children with disabilities. The "Improving Education Results for Children and Disabilities Act of 2003" would amend and extend IDEA for five years. One of the challenges will involve deciding how much the Congress will commit. States have been saying for years that IDEA is an under-funded federal mandate. The President requested $10 billion for IDEA for FY04. Congress is expected to raise the federal contribution substantially.

September Feature: High-Quality Professional Development

NCLB MANDATE
The 2002 No Child Left Behind Act requires that all children in public schools be taught by "highly qualified" teachers and stresses the importance of teachers engaging regularly in "high-quality professional development". In June 2003, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education established criteria for determining high-quality professional development and instituted a tool for collecting related data. Screen 19 of the Core Data Collection System, completed during the June Cycle, asks schools to report on the status of educators as to whether or not they have engaged in high quality professional development during the current school year. Exhibit 31 in the Core Data Manual details the criteria for determining the high-quality status of professional development and cross-references the criteria to the National Staff Development Council's Standards for Staff Development and Missouri School Improvement Standards.

The criteria are divided into three parts. To be considered high quality, a professional development activity must meet all seven of the first criteria and at least one in each of the other two sets of criteria. Further, activities that are not considered high quality may not be funded with federal funds. Emphasis is set on activities that
- engage teachers over time,
- are linked to improved student learning,
- are linked to district and building school improvement plans,
- are developed by or with participation of educators,
- provide time and other resources for learning, practice and follow-up,
- are supported by district and building leadership, and
- provide teachers with the opportunity to give feedback to the district on the effectiveness of participation.

Under these criteria, one-day workshops and short-term conferences or workshops would not be considered high-quality professional development unless they are part of an ongoing program or plan. Attendance at such stand-alone events could be supported by local and/or state funds, as deemed appropriate, but no federal funds could be used. However, the event could be approved if the activity was part of an educator's professional development plan that, in its entirety, provided for all the critical pieces and met all seven of the first criteria.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, WEB RESOURCES
ECS Report on Quality Of Teachers
A recent report by the Education Commission of the States summarizes research on how teachers are prepared, and examines policy implications. It responds to the question: What are the most effective strategies for educating and training the nation's teachers? The report reviews research on teacher preparation to ascertain what evidence research truly provides and what its implications are for policy. Based on a review of 92 studies selected, investigators used rigorous criteria in reviewing some 500 studies. See: http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/newsMedia/TQUpdate.asp.
[Scroll to the bottom to visit the ECS Issue Site on Teaching Quality.]

Professional Development: 21st Century Models

Research shows that effective staff training is the key to retaining high-quality educators. "The missing ingredient is finding a way for school systems to organize the work of qualified teachers so they can collaborate with their colleagues in developing strong learning communities that will sustain them as they become more accomplished teachers." The article "Professional Development: 21st Century Models," in the August 2003 issue of Technology & Learning, details several technology-infused approaches that work. Monica Beglau, instructional program leader for Missouri's eMINTS (Enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies) is featured in this article emphasizing the importance of ongoing professional development.
See: http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=13000492

Place-Based Learning Portfolio Web Site
Developed by the Rural School and Community Trust, in conjunction with the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the Portfolio-Based Assessment System for place-based learning includes many examples of community-school project portfolios focused on student learning from rural schools around the country. The information is designed to complement training offered by members of the Rural Trust staff and Rural Faculty, and to provide resources for schools and communities to document and assess the value of place-based learning programs; involve the community in the assessment process; share the results publicly; and use the evidence gathered to strengthen ongoing and new place-based education programs. ETS worked with the Rural Trust staff, consultants from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and members of a Portfolio Design Team from ten rural sites across the U.S. to field-test the assessment process over a two-year period, and to design the site. See: http://www.ruraledu.org/rtportfolio/index.htm.

Using Data To Improve Professional Development For Educators
This brief article features an innovative professional development initiative, "Learning through Teaching in an After School Pedagogical Laboratory." The work of the teachers in this initiative is a reminder that data about teaching take many different forms, vary in quality, and have the potential to shape how educators engage in and make decisions about their professional development. See: http://www.nfie.org/usingdata.htm.

ISTE Web Searching Guide
How do busy educators convert information overload into information literacy? ISTE's new hands-on guide to Web searching strategies, "Web Searching Strategies—An Introductory Curriculum for Students and Teachers," is a short, easy-to-use curriculum that shows students and teachers how to find, evaluate, and cite web-based resources. The curriculum is divided into sections for students in grades 5–8 and grades 9–12, and includes materials useful for teacher training and inservice sessions. See: http://www.iste.org/bookstore/detail.cfm?sku=searc2.

Intel Resources
Intel's "Learning with Handhelds" web site provides resources and projects to help teachers integrate handheld computers into the classroom. In addition, Intel Innovation in Education Institutes provide teachers with face-to-face education workshops, using the train-the-trainer model, to ensure that educators get the most from Intel's free web resources. The aim of the "Design and Discovery" aims to spark an interest in engineering among students, ages 11 to14, with hands-on projects that introduce them to fundamental concepts. The program, which includes directions, handouts, and other resources, can be implemented in school or at after-school programs. Also, Intel announced that it has trained more than 1 million teachers through its Teach to the Future program. See: http://www97.intel.com/education/index.asp.   Source: eSN Alert, August 1, 2003, Site of the Week

Searchable Database of Education Related Web Sites
The Region VII Comprehensive Center at the University of Oklahoma and Northrop Grunman Information Technology announced the debut of "Education on the Web". Its aim is to bring together useful Internet sites for educators within an easy to use searchable database. Within the database, web sites are identified as being useful classroom resources for teachers or resources for students. Additionally, the web sites are cross indexed among the categories so some of the sites will fall into multiple categories. A visitor can browse through a pre-arranged index or use the search engine. Visitors can suggest web sites they find useful, as well. Visit http://www.helpforschools.com. [Click on "Education on the Web".]

CoSN Data Tool
CoSN recently introduced "Vision to Know and Do: The Power of Data as a Tool in Educational Decision Making" highlights school districts using data analysis systems to improve student outcomes and identifies factors for successfully integrating data into the decision-making processes. Single printed copies of this resource can be purchased for $19.95 plus postage. The paper is also posted on <http://www.3d2know.org/publications/index.html>.

◆ 10 Safe Ways to Bring Computers Back to Life After a Power Outage

http://www.stevenspublishing.com/Stevens/SecProdPub.nsf/frame?open&redirect=http://www.stevenspublishing.com/Stevens/SecProdPub.Nsf/0364b6cbeb76b025862567110057705d/4f3fefefaaeb8b8986256d86006842f2?OpenDocument

DriveSavers Data Recovery Inc., a data recovery services company, has compiled a list of tips to safely bring computers "back to life" after a power outage. While a major blackout can cause data loss and destroy computer systems, the return of power is the critical time for data recovery. Fluctuations that occur as power is restored can damage computers, hard drives and stored data. DriveSavers Data Recovery suggests ten tips to bring computer systems back up.
Source: Security Products E-News 08-19-03

◆ Federal Grants Web Site

http://fedgrants.gov/

The White House Office of Management and Budget has created a new web site to assist those seeking grants. Fedgrants.gov is up and running on a pilot basis for listing grant announcements from the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

◆ eMINTS Website Launches New Look, New Features

The eMINTS program (enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies) has launched a new look for the program's website. Launched July 1 at http://emints.more.net , eMINTS website is packed with information and resources for teachers and administrators who are interested in using inquiry-based teaching and multi-media technology to improve student performance. Each section of the site provides readers with up-to-date information about the program and about ways that educators can use what has been learned about teaching and learning with technology to improve classrooms for students. Check out http://emints.more.net/news/newsite.html for a tour of the site and instructions on how to navigate all of the features of the site.

A new feature of the site is that readers may choose a "community" of interest to their particular role. Teachers, administrators, parents, technicians and others may click on a community link to find information specifically gathered for them and for their interests. Teachers can read about a lesson planning tool called WebQuests, access links to resources for celebrating the journey of Lewis Clark, and find links to outstanding classroom websites created by eMINTS teachers. Administrators can learn about the newest eMINTS evaluation reports and download application forms for various eMINTS programs.

On the "News" page, teachers will find links to Weekly Updates provided by the eMINTS staff including a special feature called "Questions of the Week." The Questions of the Week are submitted by eMINTS teachers and cover many questions that come up as teachers work to integrate technology into their classrooms using inquiry-based teaching strategies. eMINTS staff and other experts answer the questions. An archive of the questions from the past school year is also found on the "News" page.

Take time to browse the eThemes link at http://emints.more.net/ethemes/index.html. The eThemes resource is an extensive database of child-safe websites aligned to Missouri Show-Me Standards and sorted by grade level. It is a bonanza of resources for busy teachers who are looking for safe sites at the reading levels of their students.

The eMINTS website is an active and ever-changing supply of information.   Bookmark it since you will probably be returning to it throughout the year for information and resources.

◆ News from MOREnet

-- Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

2003 Missouri Educational Technology Conference
Online registration for the 2003 Missouri Educational Technology Conference is open. Register early since conference sessions and vendor booths are on a first-come, first-served basis and fill quickly. Find complete schedules, session information and links to register online at
http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2003/index.html.

E-rate Training Sessions
MOREnet provides training on the E-rate program. The sessions are intended as an introduction to the E-rate program. Attendees receive an overview of the program, including eligible services, the application process and required forms. Form 471 is covered in depth to provide the knowledge attendees need to complete their applications this fall.

Training sessions will be conducted in October and November in Independence, Macon, Springfield, Poplar Bluff, Camdenton, Maryville and St. Peters. Complete information is available at
http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/training2003.html.

Missouri public school and public library staff members do not have to be part of MOREnet's K-12 TNP or REAL programs to attend these E-rate training sessions.

To register for E-rate training, e-mail training@more.net or call (800) 509-6673 and ask for Sandra Monnig. Please include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, organization, location and date of training you wish to attend with your registration request.

MOREnet Training Schedule
MOREnet's training schedule is online at http://www.dev.more.net/training/schedule.html. Any MOREnet school district staff member is eligible to attend any of a wide variety of sessions. Information about the sessions offered through MOREnet is available at
http://www.more.net/training/index.html.

MOREnet e-Conferencing Pilot
E-Conferencing is an Internet-based tool suite that allows people to communicate and create a virtual learning environment over the Internet. Audio conferencing, live one-way video, collaborative conferencing and web conferencing are all components of the e-Conferencing tool suite. Meeting or class participants can share applications, documents, websites or presentations with all participants. Chat and polling capabilities provide channels for private communication and group feedback. Archival capabilities allow meetings and class sessions to be saved for later viewing.

An RFP is in process to acquire an e-Conferencing product. After final review of the RFP is completed, institutions that have expressed an interest in this service will be asked to commit to a specific product and price before award and contract execution.

For more information about MOREnet's e-Conferencing service, contact Nancy Piringer at piringern@more.net.

Gale DISCovering Collection Not Renewed
MOREnet will not renew the Gale DISCovering Collection online resource for Fiscal Year 2004 (July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004) due to cuts in state funding that supported this resource. Access to the DISCovering Collection will not be available from MOREnet Online Resources after Sept. 30, 2003.

If you would like to contact Gale Research about a subscription to the DISCovering Collection, please contact a Gale representative to take advantage of reduced pricing.

Steve Culver
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Satellite-Based Systems
MOREnet's Strategic Technologies group has posted their latest white paper on the general nature of satellite-based systems. The systems are explained, along with the issues presented by satellite delivery of IP-based services, followed by the technical information regarding the results and conclusions of MOREnet's testing. To access the paper, see
http://www.more.net/technical/research/index.html.

This site also has previous white papers the Strategic Technologies has developed.

MOREnet Dialing Plan <http://www.more.net/technical/research/dialplan/index.html>
PSTN and IP Network Integration for H.323, H.320 VoIP and Public Voice Networks
Dialing Plan FAQ <http://www.more.net/technical/research/dialplan/dialplan-faq.html>

IPv6 Perspectives <http://www.more.net/technical/research/ipv6/index.html>
An overview of MOREnet's research regarding the next generation of the Internet Protocol.

Adding Internet Bandwidth <http://www.more.net/technical/research/network/adding/index.html>
A summary of the issues and challenges with regard to adding bandwidth to an organization's network.

Detecting Denial of Service Attacks <http://www.more.net/technical/research/security/dos/index.html>
Detection and classification of DoS attacks over the MOREnet backbone.

High Bandwidth Circuit Alternatives
<http://www.more.net/technical/research/alternative/index.html>
Topics include frame relay and inverse multiplexing over ATM.

Internet 2 <http://www.more.net/technical/research/internet2/index.html>
How Internet 2 works with the MOREnet network.

IP Multicast <http://www.more.net/technical/research/ip-multicast/index.html>
An introduction to how IP multicast will be implemented by MOREnet.

Network Design Best Practices
<http://www.more.net/technical/research/network/bestpractices/index.html>
Tips on building a robust, scalable network for your organization.

Wireless Technology <http://www.more.net/technical/research/wireless/index.html>
MOREnet's research on wireless networking.

Voice over IP <http://www.more.net/technical/research/voip/index.html>
Current research paper on voice over IP technologies.

◆ Missouri Schools and Programs in the News

Cole R-II School District
The eMINTS program was the focus of an article in the online version of Converge, a national magazine for information and instructional technology. Check out the article "Partnerships Key to Success of Missouri Program" at http://www.centerdigitaled.com/converge/?pg=magstory&id=65146
The article discusses how the eMINTS program is a partnership effort at the statewide level and at

the local level. Tammy Brown, a third grade eMINTS teacher from Blair Oaks Elementary in the Cole R-II District, is featured in the article. Congratulations, Tammy!

◆ Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May a student or group of students script and dramatize a poem, prose (non-dramatic literary work) in a classroom setting?

A. **Yes** However, public performance outside the classroom would require permission from the copyright holder because non-class members could be present.

Q. ◆ Mark Your Calendar

September 1	Labor Day
3	Newsline published
11	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
October 1	Newsline published
9	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due

◆ Upcoming 2003-2004 Conferences

September 15-16	Second Annual Federal Programs Conference Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/fedprog
September 30	Tech Forum Technology and Learning Roosevelt Hotel, New York City www.techlearning.com/events/techforum
October 10-11	Connected Classroom Conference-Making the Connection: Curriculum, Technology and Achievement Seattle, Washington mmadera@classroom.com
October 12-13	25th Annual Rural and Small Schools Conference Manhattan Holiday Inn Holidome, Manhattan, Kansas barbhav@ksu.edu
October 16-18	ASCD Conference on Teaching and Learning (2003) Philadelphia Marriott, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania acunning@ascd.org

October 19-21	Missouri Educational Technology Conference 2003: Teacher-Driven Technology Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Missouri Research and Education Network Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2003/
October 26-29	National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: Reaching Every Student Straight From the Heart Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conference/conferen.html.
November 18-19	Connected Classroom Conference-Making the Connection: Curriculum, Technology and Achievement Chicago, Illinois mmadera@classroom.com
December 2-3	Missouri Network Security Symposium Linn State Technical College and Missouri Research and Education Network MOREnet, Columbia, MO http://www.more.net/services/conferences
January 26-28	Midwest Education and Teaching Conference Cooperating School Districts Sheraton Westport Hotel, St. Louis, MO
January 29-31	Twenty-Second Annual International Conference: Technology, Reading and Learning Difficulties (TRLD) 2004 Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square, San Francisco, California frost@trld.com
February 19-21	Interface A-Grades K-6 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum
February 22-24	Interface B-Grades 7-12 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum
July 15-16	Missouri Distance Learning Conference (MoDLA) Site to be determined

◆ **From the Mailbag**

County Road 1
http://www.mcrel.org/programs/rural/index.html
County Road 1 at McREL is a collection of resources for rural communities interested in sustaining and improving their schools. Much like the county roads that crisscross rural America, County Road 1 is a route that leads to the information, services, and tools that address the unique needs of rural schools. County Road 1 at McREL includes publications that address the challenges facing rural schools; data on rural schools; and links to other sites devoted to rural education and community development.

To provide some scenery along the way, you'll also find interactive elements like "You Know You're Rural When…"

2004 Inspired Teacher Scholarship
http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship
Professional Development Newsletter Inspiration Software®, Inc. August 2003
Announcing Inspiration Software's sixth annual Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning. To support professional development efforts and to encourage the integration of visual learning and technology into the curriculum, Inspiration Software will again award 30 scholarships in the amount of $750 each to educators who champion visual learning and technology in the classroom.

Scholarship applications are due January 28, 2004, and winners will be announced March 10, 2004. Application materials will be posted online September 15, 2003.

Free Professional Development Opportunity
www.learner.org/channel.
The Annenberg/CPB Channel is a free satellite channel for schools, colleges, and other community organizations. It runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and airs the video programs funded by Annenberg/CPB. It is available free to any agency with a Ku-band satellite dish and a DigiCipher II satellite receiver.

There are primarily three kinds of programs on the Channel: workshops, libraries, and series. Annenberg/CPB workshops bring teachers, educational leaders, and public figures together for professional development in the humanities, math, and science. Annenberg/CPB video libraries allow viewers to watch the learning process in real, unrehearsed classrooms around the country. Annenberg/CPB series in subjects across the curriculum appeal to educators and the general public alike, and offer direct instruction exploring every facet of the world we live in. Among these Annenberg/CPB series you will find some of the most famous educational programs that have ever aired on PBS.

Channel Schedule
We carry out our mandate chiefly by producing educational video programs with coordinated Web and print materials for K-12 teachers who are increasing their expertise in their fields and learning how to improve their teaching methods. Our video programs are also intended for viewers at home and students in the classroom. All of our videos, however they're used, exemplify excellent teaching.

Our video programs are aired by public broadcasting stations, used by the PBS Adult Learning Service for distance-learning telecourses, distributed for purchase on videocassette, and air on our own digital satellite channel, called the "Annenberg/CPB Channel."
Annual Reports and Reference Archive
Video Catalog

New Fall Workshops and Conferences
The Annenberg/CPB Channel's fall season begins September 1st and it is packed with professional development offerings for K-12 teachers in all core disciplines. Please register now for new programming in reading and literature, math, civics and social studies, the arts, and educational theory.

"Teaching Reading K-2 Workshop"
Primary teachers
Mondays, September 15--November 10

"The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School"
English language arts teachers
Mondays, September 29-November 24

"Learning Math: Number and Operations"
K-8 teachers
Tuesdays, September 23-November 4
Elementary teachers

"Social Studies in Action: A Methodology Workshop, K-5"

Thursdays, September 25-November 20

"Making Civics Real: A Workshop for Teachers"
High school teachers
Thursdays, September 25-November 20

"Arts in Every Classroom: A Workshop for Elementary Teachers"
K-5 teachers
Fridays, September 19-November 14

"The Learning Classroom: Theory into Practice"
Teacher educators and K-12 teachers
Fridays, September 26-November 10.

These offerings provide free certificates for inservice and recertification credit, and optional graduate credit at a reasonable cost. Contact us about how to facilitate a group and then tell your colleagues!
Call 1-800-LEARNER or register online at
http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/register_info.html
The complete fall schedule of workshops and courses can be seen at
http://www.learner.org/about/news/news_profdev.html

12 Tips on Doing More With Less
techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2003/06/morewithless.html
CoSN's March webcast on creative solutions to budget cuts was incorporated into a full-blown article in the June issue of Technology & Learning. In a recent poll, 85 percent of respondents answered yes to the question, "Has your school or district had to make cuts in spending during this school year?" Faced with limited resources and stringent requirements, strategies must be cost-effective. Examples from CoSN's panel of experts are incorporated into the articles strategy suggestions for dealing with Great Expectations Limited Resources. Visit the CoSN Store (cosn.org/store/index.html)
to purchase an archived version of the webcast.

National Geographic Society Education Foundation Grosvenor Grants
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/teacher_community/grosvenorgrants/index.html#grantcategories

School Grants
http://www.schoolgrants.org
A collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects.

New HP e-Book "Ready to Rock 'N' Roll'
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3173835.stm
Hewlett-Packard researchers have developed a prototype electronic book that can hold a whole library's worth of reading in a one-centimeter-thick device about the size of a paperback. The e-book incorporates a series of touch-sensitive strips that the user strokes to "turn" a page. By stroking the strip at different speeds, the user can speed-read or browse more casually. Electronic bookmarks and "fingers" can be inserted for marking a place or flipping between chapters. The market for electronic books is still in the embryonic stage, but Hewlett Packard scientist Huw Robson says his company wants to be ready when it does take off: "Radical new display technologies are on the horizon which will give a much more paper-like feel. When this comes along we need to have researched all aspects of how we will develop new displays so that we're ready to rock and roll."
(BBC News 24 Aug 2003)

Study Hard To Avoid Leaky Brains
http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/living/6553209.htm
Humorist Dave Barry asks, "Why do our children perform so poorly on standardized tests? Does the fault lie with our teachers? With our school administrators? With our political leaders? Can we, as concerned parents, sue somebody about this and obtain millions of dollars?" Barry thinks it's time that we parents stopped "passing the buck" on education. Maybe instead of "pointing the finger" at everybody else, we should take a hard look at ourselves in the mirror, and place the blame for our children's lousy test scores where it clearly belongs: on our children. They have a terrible attitude.

This is a sad commentary on the unrealistic expectations of today's students. Because the harsh statistical truth is that, in any given group of ten young people, only a third of them will actually succeed as professional bass fishers. The rest will wind up in the "real world," where, like it or not, they will need a practical knowledge of math. According to Barry, "We must stress to our children how important education is. We must tell them: Study hard! Learn as much as you can! Because we, your parents, are getting stupider by the day. We're experiencing massive Brain Leakage."

Full Stomach Equals Better Learning, Schools Say
http://www.gazette.net/200334/silverspring/news/173642-1.html
More children than ever before are getting their breakfast and lunch at public schools, thanks to a pair of programs that seek to ensure that no child has to go through the school day hungry. But while more kids are relying on the Free and Reduced Price Meals System, schools are also using meals as a means of building community, increasing attendance and attentiveness and reaching out to students of different cultural backgrounds, reports Corinne Purtill. In addition to the increase in concentration and attendance that has been linked to starting the day well fed, educators say they are noticing other benefits from the program as well. "I can't say it reduced tardiness or increased attendance, but when you walk into the room, there is a feeling of community," said principal Joanne Steckler. When children start their day eating together, it sends the message that "here is a place where people care for me, they care for my physical well-being, they care for my intellectual well-being," Steckler said. "It's a very concrete showing of caring." "I think people get the impression that if you put anything in front of a child they'll eat it, and that's not true," she said. "They are very particular about what they like and don't like, and we are a nutrition program and if they don't like what we're feeding them we're not doing our job. "Sometimes, students don't know how to eat the food in front of them. Students who are new to the country may be baffled by meals that are taken for granted as American staples. While breakfast and lunch may be small parts of the school day, cultural associations between food and being cared for may be powerful enough to impact the learning environment in places where academic programs alone can't reach. "The community, the belonging, those are critical pieces that are not as easy to address as the academic
pieces," Steckler said.

Kindergarten Can Wait: Many Parents Delay First Day of School
http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/2787954p-2582338c.html
Studies show that seven to nine percent of kindergartners are enrolled a year later than they are eligible, to give them an edge, a practice known as "academic red-shirting." In North Carolina, children are eligible to begin public kindergarten if they will be five years old by Oct. 16. Red-shirting refers to the college sports practice of holding a team member out of games to add a year of eligibility. Academic red-shirting has helped build the private "transitional kindergarten" market and may be helpful to individual students, but experts worry that too many red-shirters in class will change the dynamics, widening the gap between the haves and have-nots, reports Trish Wilson. Studies show that boys, who develop slower than girls, are more likely to be red-shirted. Most red-shirted students also come from affluent families that can afford to pay for private school. Samuel J. Meisels, director of the Erikson Institute in Chicago, a graduate school in child development, has studied the trend and thinks it's terrible. "It used to be that if you wanted to get your kids ahead, you wanted your kid to skip a grade. Now if you want to get your kid ahead, you hold them out, or hold them back," Meisels said. Worse yet is that children who are held back tend to come from more affluent families, which gives them an edge over those from poorer backgrounds. "These are precisely the kids who don't need this help," Meisels said.

◆ Internet Sites of Interest
Internet Safety
http://www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/do-dont.htm

Free tools for checking Web content for Section 508 Accessibility
http://www.hisoftware.com/msacc/index.html
This one is free specifically for K-12-Cynthia Says Accessibility Checker:
http://www.cynthiasays.com/accverifycs/index.html

Teaching time

http://www.teachingtime.co.uk/clock/clockres.html
This is a great interactive clock for anyone who may be teaching time in analog and digital.

Neat site for incorporating music into your curriculum
http://songsforteaching.homestead.com/index.html
Here is a second site that is also interesting:
http://www.jimmoulton.org/educator.html

Mars
The last time the red planet was this close to Earth 60,000 years ago, man lived in caves! And the good news is that Mars will remain a stunning nighttime attraction for weeks.

CNN.com: Earthlings revel in Mars close-up
http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/space/08/27/mars.closeup/index.html
Mars is about 34.6 million miles away, making it the brightest nighttime object except the moon.

The Daily Martian Weather Report
http://nova.stanford.edu/projects/mod/
How did it happen? And how vulnerable are we to another shutdown?

The Planetary Society
http://www.planetary.org/marswatch2003/
A nonprofit organization that promotes exploration of the solar system.

Exploring Planets in the Classroom
http://www.spacegrant.hawaii.edu/class_acts/
More than 25 hands-on science activities in classroom-ready pages for both teachers and students.

Electricity
Whether you experienced first hand last week's blackout in the northeast and parts of Canada, or watched and read about its debilitating effects, we got a tiny glimpse of what life would be like without electricity.

CNN.com: How Power Grids Work
http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/08/14/power.grid.ap/index.html
Electricity generation stations throughout the US are interconnected in a system called power grids.

Time.com: Blackout
http://www.time.com/time/covers/1101030825/story.html
How did it happen? And how vulnerable are we to another shutdown?

NY Times Learning Network: Now, That's a Bright Idea!
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20010208thursday.html
In this lesson, students will explore the role that electricity plays in their daily lives, both in school and at home.

Energy and Electricity Lesson Plan (Grades 3-8)
http://www.teachervision.com/lesson-plans/lesson-5764.html
Students will gain an understanding of the terms "volt," "amp," "watt," "watt-hour," and "kilowatt-hour."

eThemes
Animals: Lions
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001093.html
These sites are about lions, the only species of cat that is sociable instead of solitary. Learn about their physical characteristics, behavior, and group structure. Read about the rare lions living in India's Gir Forest and why lions in Botswana have to learn to swim. Includes pictures, audio files, videos, and an online video quiz.

Animals: Missouri Butterflies
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001094.html
These sites are about butterflies found in Missouri, including brush-footed butterflies, skippers, swallowtails, and sulphurs. Learn about their life cycle, characteristics, and defense mechanisms. Watch a movie that shows a metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly. There are links to eThemes Resources on butterflies and the migration of monarchs.

Animals: Missouri Fish
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001081.html
These sites are about the different species of fish found in Missouri. See what they look like and learn more about their habitats and diets. Includes information about Missouri's official state fish and state aquatic animal. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Missouri mammals.

Animals: Missouri Snakes
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001087.html
These sites are about Missouri snakes, including Osage copperheads, timber rattlesnakes, bull snakes, and prairie king snakes. Learn about the physical characteristics, food, reproduction, habitat, and behavior of each species. Includes several photographs of these snakes and some charts highlighting the similarities among species.

Animals: Ostriches
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001095.html
These sites are about ostriches, the largest living bird. Learn about their physical characteristics and behavior. Find out how large an ostrich egg is and whether they really do bury their heads in the ground. Includes photographs and videos.
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Animals: Urban Wildlife
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001106.html
Learn about the problem of animals living in urban areas. Find out what humans can do to learn to co-exist with the wildlife. Includes links to eThemes Resources on black bears, foxes, and Missouri mammals.

Animals: Zebras
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001092.html
These sites are about different species of zebras. Learn how zebras' striped coats help protect them from lions, which are their biggest predator. Includes several photographs.

Famous People: Levi Strauss
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001074.html
Read about Levi Strauss, the man who made a fortune from selling blue jeans. Learn about the history of denim and how these pants were first sold to miners. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the California Gold Rush.

Famous People: Pocahontas
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001071.html
These sites are about a Native American princess named Pocahontas. Learn about her father, Powhatan, who was chief of the Algonquin tribe, her husband, John Rolfe, and a friend, Captain John Smith. Includes several biographies and portraits of Pocahontas. There is also a classroom unit on Pocahontas, Jamestown, and the Algonquin tribe.

Famous People: Rosa Parks
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001073.html
Read about Rosa Parks and her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Learn the truth behind some of the myths surrounding her story. Includes biographies, photographs, and interviews. There are also some audio and video clips, plus a link to eThemes Resources on the Civil Rights Movement and famous black Americans.

Math: Measuring Shadows
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001056.html
These sites explain why shadows change their length depending on the time of day and the season.

Find out how to determine the height of an object using a shadow stick and ratios. Includes an interactive activity that lets you change the location of the sun and see how that changes the shadow length. There are several instructions for conducting experiments with shadows. There are links to eThemes Resources on eclipses, rotation and revolution, and Groundhog Day.

Native Americans: Sitting Bull
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001072.html
These sites are about Sitting Bull, the famous leader of the Sioux. Learn about his famous battle with General Custer. Includes biographies, photographs, and a brief overview of the Sioux tribe. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Plain Indians.

Weather: Rainbows
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001096.html
Learn how rainbows are formed and what colors they include. Several sites have instructions for experiments that let students create their own rainbows. View several rainbow photographs and watch an animated movie. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on light and color.

Animals: Sea Otters
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001110.html
These sites are about sea otters, a marine mammal that has extremely thick fur. Learn about the physical characteristics, behavior, life cycle, and distribution of sea otters. Find out how they survive in frigid waters and the biggest threat they face. Includes video and audio clips, a live Webcam, and photographs.

Famous People: Milton Hershey
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001067.html
Read about Milton Hershey, the famous entrepreneur who created a popular milk chocolate bar. Learn how he earned his first million making caramel before turning to chocolate. Find out how he built the town of Hershey, Pennsylvania, for his factory workers and how he used his fortunes to help others. Includes photographs and a video tour of the Hershey chocolate factory. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on chocolate.

Technology: Inspiration
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001099.html
These sites offer numerous ideas for classroom projects that use Inspiration and Kidspiration software. There are many examples of graphic organizers that can be used for a variety of activities. Many sites have step-by-step instructions or let you download a preformatted graphic organizer and change it to fit your needs. Also includes Inspiration and Kidspiration tutorials. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on graphic organizers.

U.S. President: Abraham Lincoln
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001102.html
These sites are about Abraham Lincoln and include many primary documents. Learn about America's famous 16th president and the difficult time period he lived in. Includes timelines, biographies, and famous speeches. View photographs of Lincoln and two memorials that honor him. There is also information about John Wilkes Booth and Ford Theatre. Includes links to eThemes Resources on the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil War, U.S. Presidents, and Presidents Day.